September 1 – 7, 2022 NEWS YOU CAN USE, NEWS YOU CAN TRUST 75¢

THE EAGLE

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THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE • THE CANTON EAGLE • THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR • THE NORTHVILLE EAGLE
THE PLYMOUTH EAGLE • THE ROMULUS ROMAN • THE WAYNE EAGLE • THE WESTLAND EAGLE

No. 34 www.associatednewspapers.net

Former mayor pleads guilty to wire fraud

Former Romulus Mayor LeRoy Burcroff entered a plea of guilty last Thursday to federal wire fraud charges, a 20-year felony. Burcroff was charged with spending more than $15,000 of campaign-designated funds on personal expenses.

Federal prosecutors alleged that Burcroff, 58, defrauded campaign donors who believed the money would be spent on a re-election effort. Burcroff was elected as mayor in 2013 and reelected in 2017 after serving several terms on the Romulus City Council. He opted not to seek reelection in 2021 as allegations of misappropriation of campaign funds were reported by the media.

Federal prosecutors filed criminal charges in July, alleging that Burcroff spent the money on personal and family expenses. Burcroff's attorney Walter Piszczatowski continued to defend the former mayor noting that he had repaid the campaign fund.

"LeRoy decided not to run for reelection in 2021 and the campaign fund has been fully reimbursed," Piszczatowski said. "If you talk to people that know and have worked with LeRoy, rather than talking to his political enemies, they will all tell you LeRoy always gave 100 percent of his best efforts to his hometown, the city of Romulus - and even gave money back out of his payroll check to the city when it was experiencing tough financial times."

Prosecutors, however, claimed Burcroff used the campaign funds to pay for his daughter's wedding, a Florida

See **Burcroff,** page 3

Leroy Burcroff

Bright lights

Historic State Wayne Theatre celebrates 75th anniversary

The 75th anniversary of the State-Wayne Theatre, which opened on Dec. 29, 1946 includes a reunion party for the theater staff from the past seven decades and an update of the grand Marquee.

The State-Wayne remains the oldest operational business in downtown Wayne. Being a part of the city history, the special anniversary and reunion party for former employees of the theater is planned for 6 p.m. Sept. 7.

"If you were a former employee of the theatre at any time over the past seven decades, I am personally inviting you to attend our reunion party," said Phoenix Theatres State-Wayne President and owner Cory Jacobson. "I meet people every week that have the fondest memories of having worked at the State-Wayne, and as someone who grew up in the theatre business, I have a personal nostalgia for the unique family theatre working experience.

"State-Wayne is such an intimate theatre and I thought it would be a wonderful time to have this group of people reunite, catch up on their lives and see how vibrant the State-Wayne Theatre is in her 75th year," Jacobson added.

The new marquee at the 75-year-old State Wayne Theater was completed last week with the final lighting in place and the new lettering proudly displayed. The renovation was funded, in part, by a facade improvement grant from the Wayne Downtown Development Authority.

As part of the anniversary, the State-Wayne underwent a renovation of the wrap-around marquee, one of the largest original movie signs in North America. The plexiglass sign faces were replaced with a much more durable material, a pearl white Lexan. Additionally, all the backlighting was upgraded to LED. This move will help preserve the classic look of the marquee while reducing the amount of energy needed to power the marquee, a spokesman said. The original wattage with fluorescent lamps consumed approximately 7,875 watts of electricity to operate 105 bulbs each of 75 watts. The retrofit LED wattage would reduce the usage to 1,659 watts and will save approximately $4,914.12 in annual operating expense and reduce the strain on the local electrical grid.

"The retrofit will ensure that the historic 1946 marquee is always completely lit properly and will be pristine for decades into the future" added Jacobson. "The State-Wayne marquee is the largest in length in the state of Michigan and is frequently photographed by visitors to Wayne as a regional landmark but also a national treasure to movie historians."

The reunion party will be catered by a close friend of Phoenix Theatres, Peter Ginopolis' Ginopolis' Bar-BQ Smokehouse and will feature a private showing of the Tom Cruise summer blockbuster "Top Gun: Maverick." Former employees are invited to contact the Phoenix Theatres corporate office at (248) 478-7170 to R.S.V.P. or visit https://www.phoenix-movies.net for information on the event.

Sumpter receives top marks on financial audit

Sumpter Township is in excellent financial condition, according to Rana Emmons, a Certified Public Accountant with Post Smythe Lutz and Zeal, the independent auditing firm of the township.

Emmons told the board members during the Aug. 23 meeting that she would rate the township 10, 10 and 9.5 on a 10-point scale in three areas: financial health, reporting and efficiency. Emmons, a specialist in municipal accounting, praised the work of Financial Director Scott Holtz, Township Manager Tony Burdick and Treasurer Vincent Warren, and their respective staff members. Emmons' highly favorable rating came in response to a question from Deputy Supervisor/Trustee Tim Rush who said he wanted to be sure that residents could understand the audit report.

The township received an "unmodified" audit, meaning the auditors had nothing negative to report and no criticisms or questions regarding revenue and expenditures for the fiscal year ending March 31. The "unmodified" classification means the audit is unchallenged and is an accurate report of revenue and expenses in the township.

> "This is an in-depth process with strict rules.
> When you sign this document,
> you are convinced it is a correct audit."

Emmons reported a "nice bump" of 3.5 percent in property tax revenue, up from 2 percent last year and a 10 percent increase in state shared revenue, bringing an additional $150,000 to the general fund.

The township also saw $210,000 in investment income and a 70 percent increase in building permit revenue. Overall, Emmons said, the township added $653,000 to the general fund during the past year, after all collected revenue and expenses.

Emmons also said Sumpter was "well ahead of many other communities" with funding of the township pension plan. The current pension liability is $12.8 million, and the township has deposited $11 million into the plan. The resulting $1.2 million balance means the pension liability is 90 percent funded, she said. Emmons added that the pension obligation was decreased significantly due to trustees' decision to deposit increased investment income in the plan.

Trustee Matt Oddy said he wanted to ensure that residents in the township were receiving good information about the financial health of the township. He asked Emmons to respond to erroneous claims that the township was misusing or mismanaging funds.

"You've looked at that and you can attest it is not happening?" he asked.

"Absolutely," Emmons responded. She then explained that the rules for an audit of this type were very specific "and you've got to know what you are looking at" when examining municipal financial documents. "This is much different than the corporate world. There is checklist on checklist we have to fill out," she said.

Township attorney Rob Young noted that the financial records were closely examined during an audit of this type. "This is an in-depth process with strict rules. When you sign this document, you are convinced it is a correct audit?" he asked Emmons. "Yes," Emmons responded.

See **Audit,** page 6

THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE
Vol. 137, No. 34

An obscenity-laced threat of violence sent to Sumpter Township Supervisor Tim Bowman by a political candidate has been referred to the police department.

See page 6.

THE CANTON EAGLE
Vol. 75, No. 34

Canton Township has launched a new CodeRed mass notification system to send alerts and time-sensitive messages to residents and staff members.

See page 2.

THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR
Vol. 75, No. 34

A 29-year-old Inkster woman could face drunk driving charges in the crash that killed her 3-year-old son and injured her five other children.

See page 6.

THE NORTHVILLE EAGLE
Vol. 22, No. 34

Members of the Northville Planning Commission are expected to finalize their recommendations for the Northville Downs racetrack property.

See page 5.

THE PLYMOUTH EAGLE
Vol. 22, No. 34

The Plymouth Fall Festival will again this year be the site of one of the major fundraisers for the Plymouth Canton Vietnam Veterans group.

See page 2.

THE ROMULUS ROMAN
Vol. 137, No. 34

The 24th Annual Romulus Pumpkin Festival is planned for Sept. 16, 17 and 18 this year at the Romulus Historical Park located at 11147 Hunt St. in the city.

See page 3.

THE WAYNE EAGLE
Vol. 75, No. 34

Members of the Wayne Police Department joined the crowds at Goudy Park in Wayne last weekend for the Downtown Development Authority Movie Night.

See page 4.

THE WESTLAND EAGLE
Vol. 75, No. 34

Westland will have more than $35 million in marijuana facilities in the city following approval of the site plan for a third outlet by city council last week.

See page 4.

Canton - Plymouth

For the past several years, one of the major fundraisers for the Plymouth Canton Vietnam Veterans' group has been the Fall Festival Party Tent behind E.G. Nick's on Forest Street. The tent features live music and beverage service on both Friday and Saturday night and 100 percent of the $5 cover charge is donated to the veterans' group.

Vietnam veterans' group welcomes Fall Festival

There are about 300 Vietnam veterans who are looking forward to the arrival of the Plymouth Fall Festival again this year.

For the past several years, one of the major fundraisers for the veterans' group which formed in 1978, "To promote and support the full range of issues important to Vietnam era veterans," is the popular Party Tent behind E.G. Nick's on Forest Avenue. Owners Tony Belli and Frank Agostini began donating the entire cover charge of $5 per person to the group about five years ago. Since then, word has spread and contributions at the entrance to the huge, air-conditioned tent in the parking lot have become a tradition among the over 21 crowd.

This year, like 2021, Agostini said, the veterans' group is still attempting to recover from the effects of the COVID pandemic which seriously affected many of their members. When COVID precautions cancelled the Fall Festival two years ago, the impact on the group was significant. "They are still trying to catch up," Agostini said, "although people were really generous last year. I've seen people throw $20 and even $50 bills into the donation jar to help these guys. We support a great many local causes and groups, but this one is probably the one that means the most to me. These guys deserve all the help we can give them."

Members from the veterans group greet party-goers at the tent entrance both Friday and Saturday night, make sure they are 21 or older, provide the identification bracelets and offer other services at the event.

"We've never had a problem. Never," said Agostini. Each year, the restaurant funds the entire party, providing the bands, tent, rental chairs and tables, sound system, insurance fees and staffing. None of the cover charge goes to fund any of those expenses but is donated entirely to the veterans group.

The Plymouth-Canton chapter is the only National Vietnam Veterans Organization congressionally chartered and exclusively dedicated to Vietnam era veterans and their families,

Their founding principle is "Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another," and members work to create a new identity for Vietnam veterans and to change public perception of the individuals who served during that war.

Agostini said he, Belli and the entire restaurant staff enjoy the party tent as much as the crowds. "It's just a really great time, and we enjoy it," he said. "We can have a great time and do some good for guys who really deserve it."

E.G. Nicks is located at 500 Forest Ave. in Plymouth and the party tent is in the back parking lot. "Just follow the music," Agostini advised.

Canton adopts new emergency notification system

Canton Township residents will soon have a new alert system from the local public safety department.

Canton has launched a new CodeRED mass notification system to send alerts and time-sensitive messages to residents and staff members. In addition to emergency and critical messages, the CodeRED notification system will also enhance community engagement through the release of other important but non-emergency community messages to those who wish to subscribe, a police official said in a prepared statement. The new system became operable today, Sept. 1, and will replace the existing Nixle mass notification system the township has been using.

The CodeRED platform has the ability to send telephone calls, text messages, emails and posts to social media channels to share important life safety information necessary for residents to make informed decisions during an emergency, officials said. CodeRED was selected for its reliability and accuracy, as well as the system's widespread adoption rates across the country.

"CodeRED's robust notification system will provide Canton officials with a reliable, easy-to-use interface to quickly deliver critical information to our citizens during emergencies. We are eager to use this innovative technology to enhance our emergency preparedness plans," said Emergency Manager William Hayes. "We anticipate using the system to notify residents of emergency alerts, severe weather, road closures, water emergencies, missing children, and more."

Those individuals living or working within the township can enroll by texting the code word CANTON to 99411; at www.canton-mi.org/250/Public-Safety under the Public Safety Spotlights; or by calling (866) 939-0911.

Subscribers will be able to enroll their contact information including cell phone numbers, text and email addresses to begin receiving alerts and messages.

Crossing repair is scheduled

Drivers in downtown Plymouth found North Main Street closed Monday morning as work began on the cratered railroad crossing.

According to CSX railroad, the work could take as long as two weeks to complete, which should see the crossing reopen to traffic just before the Plymouth Fall Festival which brings about 20,000 visitors to the community. The reopening of the crossing could be delayed by the Labor Day holiday, officials said, which would present some problems.

The railroad crossing on Main Street has been a source of constant complaints as the bone-rattling ditches between the tracks challenged even the most serious of suspension systems. Drivers have been reduced to 10 miles per hour in an effort to preserve vehicles, officials said.

The Main Street repair follows the repair and reconstruction several other crossings in the city by CSX. Workers recently repaired crossings at Ann Arbor Trail, Mill Street South, Starkweather and Holbrook.

The posted detour will take motorists from Theodore to Farmer, then Farmer to Amelia back to Main Street.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
PUBLIC HEARING
CDBG ADVISORY COUNCIL

On Wednesday, September 14, at 11:00 a.m. in a virtual public hearing on the township website (www.canton-mi.org), the Canton Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Advisory Council will hold a public hearing on the PY 2021 Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report ("CAPER"). Written comments or requests for information should be directed to: Mike Sheppard, CDBG Manager, Finance Department, 1150 S. Canton Center Road, Canton, Michigan 48188, (734) 394-5225.

Publish: September 1, 2022 CN2428 - 090122 2.5 x 1.25 Michael Siegrist, Clerk

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL PERFORMANCE
EVALUATION REPORT
(Program Year 2021 CDBG "CAPER")
PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

The above-named document for the Canton Community Development Block Grant Program is available for inspection at the Finance Department, 1150 S. Canton Center Road, Canton, Michigan 48188 during regular business hours, or on the township website at https://www.canton-mi.org/654/Community-Development-Block-Grant-Progra or you may email mike.sheppard@canton-mi.org for an electronic copy. The document describes the performance of the CDBG program from July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022. Comments on the CAPER will be accepted for at least 15 days, beginning September 1, 2022. Comments received during the public comment period will be forwarded to the Department of HUD and will become an addendum to the CAPER.

Publish: September 1, 2022 CN2427 - 090122 2.5 x 1.896 Michael Siegrist, Clerk

PROPERTY TAX MILLAGE RATE
PROPOSED TO BE LEVIED
TO SUPPORT THE 2023 PROPOSED BUDGET

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Charter Township of Canton will be holding a public hearing regarding the property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the 2023 proposed budget on Tuesday, September 13, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the first floor Board Meeting Room at the Township Administration Building located at 1150 South Canton Center Road, Canton, MI 48188.

All interested citizens are encouraged to attend and will be offered an opportunity at said hearing to voice any comments they may have regarding this request. The meeting can also be accessed virtually via a Zoom link, which will be posted on the Canton Township Website at www.canton-mi.org. Written comments may also be submitted to the Township Clerk's Office at 1150 South Canton Center Road, Canton, MI 48188 prior to the hearing date.

Michael A. Siegrist,
Canton Clerk

Publish: September 1, 2022; The Associated Newspapers CN2429 - 090122 2.5 x 2.194

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF NORTHVILLE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
September 27, 2022 at 7:00 PM

The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing at the Northville Township Municipal Offices, 44405 Six Mile Road, Northville, MI 48168 to consider rezoning parcel # 77 071 99 0002 701 (81.6 acres), north side of 5 Mile, between railroad track and Napier Rd., from ORT Office, Research & Technology to I-1 Industrial.

The public is invited to attend this public hearing and express their comments or ask questions. Plans will be available for viewing at the Township between 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday. Written comments will be received by the Northville Township Planning Commission at 44405 Six Mile Road, Northville, MI 48168 no later than 12:00 PM on the day on the above meeting.

Matthew Wilk, Chair
Planning Commission

Publish: September 1, 2022 NT0193 - 090122 2.5 x 2.281

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF NORTHVILLE
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS – PUBLIC HEARING
September 21, 2022 – 7:00 PM

The Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) will hold a public hearing at the Northville Township Municipal Office Building, located at 44405 Six Mile Road, Northville MI. The ZBA will consider a variance request to Chapter 170, Zoning Ordinance as follows:

• 41289 Stone Haven Rd. - Article 31.5, Fences in Residential Zoning Districts

• 39700 5 Mile Rd. - Article 31.6, Fences in Nonresidential Districts

The public is invited to attend this public hearing and express their comments or ask questions. Plans are available for viewing at the Township between 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday. Written comments will be received by the ZBA at 44405 Six Mile Road, Northville, MI 48168 no later than 12:00 PM on the day of the above meeting.

Paul Slatin, Chair
Zoning Board of Appeals

Publish: September 1, 2022 NT0192 - 090122 2.5 x 2.515

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
ACCESS TO PUBLIC MEETINGS

The Charter Township of Canton will provide necessary, reasonable auxiliary aids and services to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon notice to the Charter Township of Canton.

In accordance with the requirements of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"), the Charter Township of Canton will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability in its services, programs, or activities.

Employment: The Charter Township of Canton does not discriminate on the basis of disability in its hiring or employment practices and complies with all regulations promulgated by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission under Title II of the ADA.

Effective Communication: The Charter Township of Canton will generally, upon request, provide appropriate aids and services leading to effective communication for qualified persons with disabilities so they can participate equally in the Charter Township of Canton's programs, services, and activities, including qualified sign language interpreters, documents in Braille, and other ways of making information and communications accessible to people who have speech, hearing, or vision impairments.

Modifications to Policies and Procedures: The Charter Township of Canton will make all reasonable modifications to policies and programs to ensure that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to enjoy all of its programs, services, and activities. For example, individuals with service animals are welcomed in the Charter Township of Canton's offices, even where pets are generally prohibited.

Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a program, service, or activity of the Charter Township of Canton should contact the office of Barb Brouillette, Human Resources Supervisor, Charter Township of Canton, 1150 S. Canton Center Road, Canton, MI 48188, (734) 394-5260 as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the scheduled event.

The ADA does not require the Charter Township of Canton to take any action that would fundamentally alter the nature of its programs or services, or impose an undue financial or administrative burden.

Complaints that a program, service, or activity of the Charter Township of Canton is not accessible to persons with disabilities should be directed to Barb Brouillette, Human Resources Supervisor, Charter Township of Canton, 1150 S. Canton Center Road, Canton, MI 48188, (734) 394-5260.

The Charter Township of Canton will not place a surcharge on a particular individual with a disability or any group of individuals with disabilities to cover the cost of providing auxiliary aids/services or reasonable modifications of policy, such as retrieving items from locations that are open to the public but are not accessible to persons who use wheelchairs.

Publish: 09/01/22 CN2426 - 090122 2.5 x 4.72

ROMULUS

City prepares for annual Pumpkin Festival

The 24th Annual Romulus Pumpkin Festival is planned for Sept. 16, 17 and 18 this year at the Romulus Historical Park located at 11147 Hunt St. in the city.

The annual Pumpkin Festival is a three-day event that starts on the third Friday in September and begins with the Parade of Lights, where everything is aglow, from bicycles to cement trucks. The Parade of Lights, sponsored and organized by members of the Romulus Rotary Club, attracts a crowd of thousands, festival organizers said. The parade will begin at 8 p.m. Sept. 16.There is no entry fee for the lighted parade, but all entries must include multiple lights. Applications are available at the Community Development Office in Romulus City Hall, where the completed form should also be returned. All questions about this event must be directed to the Romulus Rotary Facebook Page @RomulusRotary or email romulus.rotary@gmail.com.

Attractions this year also include the Classic Car Show and Craft and Vendor Show. "The event is a celebration of friends and family; a harvest celebration that generates an enthusiastic spirit and regenerates our sense of community," a spokesperson said. The Pumpkin Festival will be also sponsor tasting and digital photo contests leading up to the festival. All entries will be due Sept. 9. Digital photo entries can be submitted online to the festival Facebook page @DowntownRomulus or emailed to cbradley@romulus-gov.com. The public will be given a chance to pick their favorite entries on the Facebook page. Participants in the tasting contests must drop off their entries at the Romulus Senior Center and be judged by Romulus seniors. Winners for all contests will be announced on Facebook and contacted individually. All entries must include the individual's name, email, and phone number.

Multiple contest entries have already been received, organizers noted, although volunteers to work at the event are still being sought. Vendor applications are still being accepted and donations are appreciated, organizers said. To volunteer, register or for information, call the Pumpkin Festival Hotline at (734) 955-4577.

Off duty

Capt. Damian "Shrek" Hull retired after 25 years of service with the Romulus Police Department last week. During his career with the department he served as a field training officer; crime prevention officer; evidence technician and firearms / taser / defensive tactics instructor. Hull was a member of the CHIEF Task Force and established the department honor guard and was instrumental in the Romulus Citizens' Academy. He served as the department accreditation manager and as operations captain."Hull was also a master at creating pdf and excel forms. He was definitely a man of many talents, and he will be missed. More than anything, we will miss the delicious donuts that he would bring 'almost' every Thursday," a fellow officer said.The department also recently promoted several officers including Sgt. Matthew Reese, Sgt. Andrew Carriger, Lt. Eric Smith, and Lt. Roger Salwa.

'Miss Amazing' is honored

Members of the Romulus City Council unanimously approved a formal recognition for local resident Lucy Taylor who was recently crowned Miss Amazing Pre-Teen in a pageant in Nashville, TN.

Taylor, a student at Barth Elementary School, brought home the crown to Romulus noted City Councilwoman Celeste Roscoe who proposed the resolution during the Aug. 8 meeting. Miss Amazing is a non-profit organization supporting girls and women with disabilities.

Councilman William Wadsworth said that he remembered when Taylor, the daughter of a former city employee, was born. "She has faced some difficult challenges but turned them into positive things," he said. Roscoe agreed commenting that Taylor was an inspiration with her positive attitude and her passion for reading.

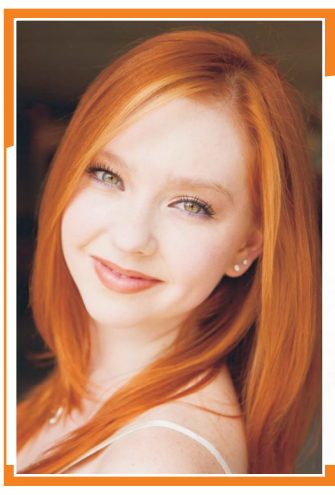
Burcroff

FROM PAGE 1

vacation, flowers, $4,500 in liquor charges and dues and expenses at the Belleville Yacht Club. Burcroff was also accused of wiring a payment in excess of $2,400 to the Belleville Yacht Club in November 2017 from the "Committee to Elect LeRoy D. Burcroff" checking account.

Residents "deserve to be served by public officials of the highest integrity," Detroit U.S. Attorney Dawn Ison said in a statement. "Those who abuse positions of trust by misusing campaign donations for their own benefit will face stiff consequences."

Burcroff's sentencing hearing is scheduled for Dec. 8 before U.S. District Judge Denise Page Hood. Sentencing guidelines indicate he could serve 14 months in prison although Piszczatowski has argued that sentencing should be no more than 10 months.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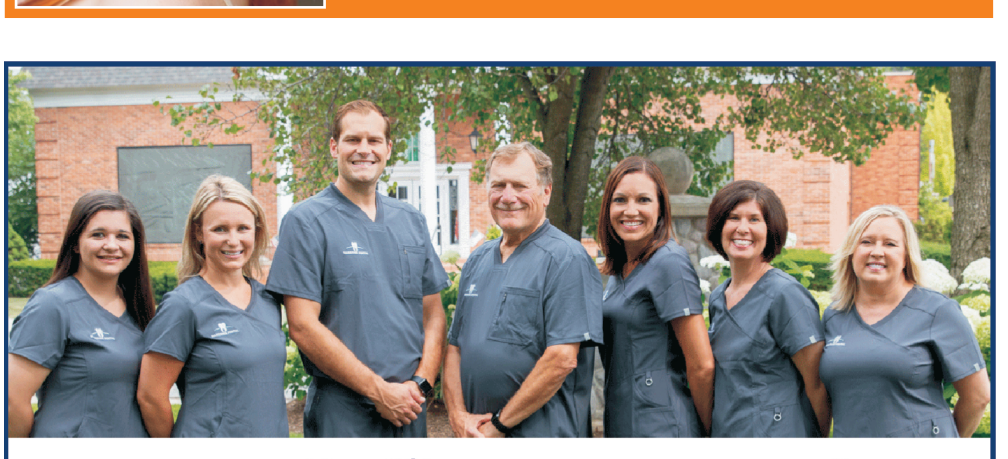
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Wayne - Westland

Westland council OKs third marijuana site

Westland will have more than $35 million in marijuana facilities in the city following approval of the site plan for a third outlet by members of the city council last week.

LJA has submitted plans to construct an 11,600 square foot building for cultivation and a 4,950 square foot building provisioning center for sales. The new $8.5 million project will be located near Cherry Hill and Newburgh Road and is allowed under the city cannabis ordinance, noted Westland Mayor William R. Wild.

Plans for two other cannabis facilities were approved by city officials earlier this year. Korval/Kinship will be located at 37435 and 37601 Cherry Hill Road and will include two separate buildings, one of 21,313 square feet to be used for growing and cultivation and a second of 6,080 square feet intended as a retail outlet. The total investment approved for the buildings totaled $4.3 million, according to city officials.

A third marijuana facility was approved earlier this year to be constructed by Quality Roots. This site plan includes a 46,700 square foot building for the growing, processing and retail sales of the substance. This $18 million building is planned for a site at 37800 Cherry Hill.

"All three of these projects are very modern and extremely attractive new construction on vacant parcels within the community," commented Economic Development Director Aubrey Berman.

"These facilities will generate significant tax revenues and create numerous jobs for Westland."

In addition to the three collocated facilities, the city ordinance allows for two retail/provisioning centers within the community, both of which have also received site plan approval.

Owners of Common Citizen, which will be located at 37655 Ford Road, recently broke ground on a 5,702 square foot retail/provisioning center, representing a $3 million investment.

> *These facilities will generate significant tax revenues and create numerous jobs for Westland.*

High Society has also been approved to construct a 3,025 SF building at 8475 and 8455 N. Inkster Road on property that has housed a long vacant building which also showed blight conditions. Their investment is estimated at $2 million.

"Our ordinance was written in a way to ensure projects would maximize economic impact through new construction, revitalization of blighted properties and overall community benefit," Berman continued."We are happy to see that our existing ordinance has encouraged projects that elevate our existing real estate and increase the aesthetic of our commercial corridors, she concluded.

Movie time

Members of the Wayne Police Department joined the crowds at Goudy Park in Wayne last weekend for movie night. The community event is organized and sponsored by the Downtown Development Authority. On hand to enjoy the showing of Sonic the Hedgehog 2 were Police chief Ryan Strong along with Zeke, the department therapy dog, Sgt. Jordan Arndt, Ofc. Keith Williams and Ofc. James Serman. A free backpack for the first 50 students donated by the Michigan Railroad Association was planned, and the Smoke House Fire Trailer was on hand offering fire safety and training. Food trucks provided refreshments and there was free popcorn for all.

Son is sentenced in murder

A 27-year-old Westland man has been sentenced to 29 to 50 years in prison after pleading guilty to the murder of his father nearly two years ago.

Flem Stiltner, IV, was charged with first-degree murder after stabbing his 48-year-old father, Flem Stiltner, III, nearly 100 times in the victim's Wayne home in August of 2020. The victim's body was then placed in the bed of a pickup truck and taken toward Belleville Lake in Van Buren Township where the truck became mired in mud.

Investigators found the vehicle and a journal entry with the alleged murder plot.

They also discovered Stiltner's fingerprint on the knife blade that apparently killed his father.

A Wayne County judge accepted his plea while dismissing the charge of premeditated first-degree murder and counts of home invasion and tampering with evidence.

Flem Stiltner IV

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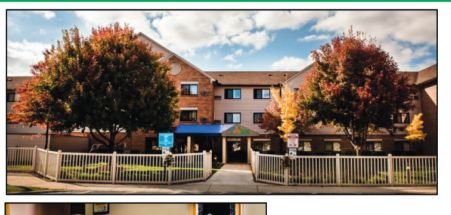

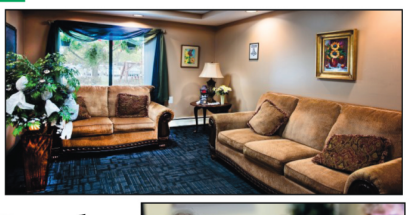

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59. Auctions

PUBLIC AUCTION
MARTIN'S TOWING
17180 DIX TOLEDO RD
BROWNSTOWN MI 48193
SEPTEMBER 7, 2022
10:00 A.M.
1988 FORD
1FCJE39H5JHC02397
2017 CHEVROLET
1G1ZB5ST2HF117618
2018 HYUNDAI
5NMZT3LB8JH082560
2017 CHEVROLET
3GNCJLSB4HL232617
2015 FORD
1FM5K7D85FGA68671
2018 DODGE
2C3CDXL94JH311968
2003 BUICK
3G5DB03E53S554805
2006 FORD
1FAFP53U86A233957
2011 BUICK
2G4GR5EC3B9205031
2010 FORD
3FAHP0JA5AR339205
2012 FIAT
3C3CFFBR1CT113218

On Tuesday, September 13, 2022 at 1PM, Frazier's Auto Service Towing located at 35830 Van Born Rd Wayne, MI 48184 will conduct a public auction of Impounded and Abandoned Vehicles. The following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder.
2007 PONTIAC
2G2WP552471202582
2005 CHEVY
1G1AL52FX57535225
2009 AUDI
WAULF78K49N017505

The above vehicles are impounded through the cities of Romulus and Inkster. All paperwork must be picked up within 48 hours.
All vehiclesS are sold in "as is condition". Bidding on all vehicles will start at the amount due for towing and storage. Vehicles may be deleted from this list at any time prior to the start of the auction. This is a cash only sale and all vehicles must be paid in full at the time of the conclusion of the auction.

THE FOLLOWING CARS HAVE BEEN DEEMED ABANDONED BY THE INKSTER POLICE DEPT. AND WILL BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC AUCTION AT BISHOP AUTO WRECKING LLC AT 2780 SPRINGHILL INKSTER, MI 48141 ON FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 16, 2022, AT 10AM.
2006 FORD
(1FAHP34N06W136016)
2006 CHEVROLET
(2G1WB55K669255772)
2005 CHEVROLET
(3GNFK16Z85G216320)
2007 KIA
(KNAGE123075100459)
2008 SATURN
(3GSCL53758S677709)
2009 CHEVROLET
(1GCEK19C89Z238190)
2020 KIA
(5XXGT4L30LG420637)
2003 CHEVROLET
(1GNET16S136154835)
2003 GMC
(3GKFK16Z43G208015)
2015 JEEP
(1C4PJMAB4FW603266)

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NORTHVILLE

Planning commission considers Downs plan

Members of the Northville Planning Commission are expected to finalize their recommendations and list of conditions regarding the proposed development of the Northville Downs racetrack property.

Under consideration are the preliminary site plans for the Hunter Pasteur mixed use development at the downtown site. During a meeting Aug. 16, commissioners discussed infrastructure, financials, and phasing and traffic concerns along Seven Mile Road. Members of the commission have addressed the question of sufficient, accessible parking and asked the developer about the shape of the retention pond in River Park. Hunter Pasteur Homes CEO Randy Wertheimer noted if the pond can be designed to allow for an additional pathway along the back of the carriage homes, they would present that option.

Hunter Pasteur Northville (HPN) Executive Seth Herkowitz presented a PowerPoint during the Aug. 16 meeting with a history and overview of the preliminary site plan, noting the six guiding principles stated in the Master Plan.

"The plan has undergone a rigorous review and an extensive amount of community engagement," Herkowitz said.

The newest addition to the plan is a revised south gateway at Seven Mile and South Center featuring an Italianate design for the townhomes along South Center, and a tree-lined entrance on each of the curved corners leading into the development. The low brick wall with signage shown in a previous version was eliminated to focus on the architecture and landscaping. The signage may become part of the roundabout.

New aerial views showed the interconnection between the condominium building, apartment building, Central Park and commercial space on Cady St. Other aerial views showed the residential areas, and River Park.

Herkowitz summarized site plan which includes 443 housing units; 18,580 square feet of commercial space (with lobbies); 1,515 total parking spaces, with 328 being public spaces on streets for parallel parking and 10.44 acres of total space (including the stormwater basin and river) in River Park. He noted the open channel length of the daylighted river would be the same as the distance from North Center to Griswold along Main Street.

Artist's rendering of proposed Northville Downs development.

Herkowitz said construction of the apartment and condominium buildings would begin spring or summer 2023; the town homes along Seven Mile and Center next fall and the housing units south of Beal in 2024 with completion in 2027. The Farmers' Market would have a temporary home on the Downs site after the fall 2023 season ends though the 2025 season.

"We're at a tipping point. We've shown a level of transparency and openness and have the financial viability," Herkowitz said.

"We have the opportunity to take an under-utilized property with significant challenges and integrate a mixed-use development that will include historic and generational, community and regional assets into the existing beauty and charm that is Northville," he concluded.

Art House exhibit to feature works of 40 artists

The Northville Art House will present the 14th annual West of Center: Art That Pushes Boundaries all-media exhibition through Sept. 24. The exhibition, juried by Detroit sculptor and instructor Sergio de Giusti, features 52 works created by 40 artists from Michigan and around the country. The theme this year centers on pushing beyond what is comfortable to create the unexpected. Artists were encouraged to use tools, processes, and skills in unconventional ways; to take risks with style by experimenting with color, media, detail, and technique; to consider scale, materials, ideas, and subject matter; and to release expectations, be playful, and have fun, explained Creative Director Ryan Kaltenbach.

"For the artist, West of Center is about thinking outside of the box and striving to push past boundaries of personal comfort and formulaic creativity to produce compelling works of art. For the viewer, the exhibition is about finding the unexpected in each work," Kaltenbach said.

Visitors to the exhibition will find, among other intriguing observations, how Novi artist Peggy Kerwan combined an original photograph with digital elements to create her photograph of asphalt titled Pear; Roseville artist Brenda Beene Shackleford applied found natural and man-made objects to create her assemblage, Gen 7 Sorrow aka Eco Baby; and Detroit figurative painter Zoe Beaudry merged acrylic paint with artificial light to produce the mixed media work, Looking the Void in the Eye.

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Inkster - Sumpter

Threats to Sumpter supervisor investigated

An obscenity-laced threat of violence sent to Sumpter Township Supervisor Tim Bowman by a political candidate has been referred to the police department for investigation.

Sheena Barnes, 62, the democratic candidate for township treasurer, sent the explicit and racial epithet filled threat to Bowman last week and it was automatically recorded.

After hearing the recording, which includes physical threats against Bowman and his wife, he referred the recording to the police department, citing harassment, intimidation and the stated physical threat.

Sumpter Township Police Chief Eric Luke confirmed that there is currently an investigation of a complaint filed by the supervisor against a local resident but said the department would have no comment at this stage of the investigation. The findings, Luke said, would be sent on to the prosecutor's office for a determination of charges in the matter.

Bowman said he suspected, from the timing and content of the harangue, that Barnes may have been responding to a recent effort of township officials to ensure that all businesses were compliant with local ordinances. He said that several business owners, including Barnes, were sent letters reminding them that all township businesses were required to obtain a permit.

> *He said he was shocked by the vulgarity of the language along with racial epithets, sexual references and threats of physical violence.*

Bowman said he believes that Barnes may have felt she was being singled out for the request for compliance, although her Sumpter Road barbeque business has not been licensed since 2018, according to township records.

Barnes has operated the barbeque business from a trailer on her property for about 35 years. She is a lifelong resident of the township and was previously unsuccessful in separate bids for election as a trustee and township clerk. She was appointed to a trustee position in 2018 and served a partial term on the township board.

The majority of the content of Barnes' message to Bowman, provided to The Eagle, is vulgar and includes racial slurs and an explicitly violent threat against both him and his wife along with multiple sexual references.

In a prepared statement, Bowman said he suspects that the verbal assault may have also been prompted by legal action he has threatened against Township Trustee Peggy Morgan, "a close friend of Sheena Barnes."

Bowman said the provocative and epithet-riddled nature of the message prompted his report to the police. He said he was shocked by the vulgarity of the language used by Barnes, along with her racial epithets, sexual references and threats of physical violence.

Luke said he anticipated the police investigation would take about a week.

Barnes did not respond to requests for comment by press time.

3-year-old killed in wrong-way collision

A 29-year-old Inkster woman could face drunk driving charges in the crash that killed her 3-year-old son and injured her five other children.

Farmington Hills police responded to a two-vehicle crash at about 2.34 a.m. Aug. 8. According to police reports, the Inkster woman was driving northbound in the southbound lane on Inkster Road. Passengers in her vehicle included her six children, ages 10, 7, 5, 3, 18-months and 8-months of age. The 3-year-old was not in a child seat or restrained and was pronounced dead at the scene, according to police.

The woman and other children were transported to a local hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. The five children were released to the custody of their grandparents on Sunday, according to police reports. The mother remains in police custody.

The other driver involved in the collision, a 33-year-old man from Detroit, transported himself to the hospital for medical treatment, police said.

Investigators are currently working with the office of the prosecutor as they believe alcohol was a factor in the crash.

Anyone who witnessed the crash or with information about the incident is asked to call the Farmington Hills Police Department Command Desk at (248) 871-2610.

Bank robber admits guilt

An Inkster man who was arrested hiding in a Porta Potty following a Dearborn bank robbery has entered a guilty plea to federal bank robbery charges.

Charles William Woolery, 52, admitted that he was the man who robbed the Dearborn Federal Savings Bank on March 22, according to a news release. During the robbery, Woolery handed a bank teller a note that demanded she "smile" and put money in a bag or he would "kill everyone," the release said. He implied he had a weapon with a gesture to his hip, according to investigators.

Woolery admitted in court that he was the man who then fled the bank on foot with $1,690. Dearborn police found him hiding in a Porta Potty in the parking lot of the Hampton Inn on Michigan Avenue, according to police reports. The $1,690 was found by police in the hoodie he was wearing along with a face mask, a full tan Carhartt style suit, and tan gloves like those used in the bank robbery.

"This case shows that violent criminals can run, but they can't hide no matter where they may go," stated U.S. Attorney Dawn Ison. "The federal authorities appreciate the assistance and partnership of the Dearborn Police Department."

The maximum penalty for bank robbery is 20 years in prison. Woolery will be sentenced Dec. 19, according to a prepared statement.

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Audit

FROM PAGE 1

Emmons said the cooperation and performance of the township staff was crucial in her ability to examine the financial records. "Municipal auditing is so specialized," she said, "I come out here and not only do I physically look at the documents, I walk around and talk to the staff."

She added that the stringent state reporting rules and procedures change regularly, and it is part of her job to understand the changes and exactly how municipal finances must be examined and reported.

"I get no pushback from the staff here on the changes," she said. "They all want to do it the right way. That speaks to the integrity of the administration."

AGGRESSIVE LITIGATION

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